

Applicants traverse these rejections since Shirafuji et al is not a proper reference since it is Applicants' own publication less than one year old. Applicants are submitting herewith declarations by Toshihiro Nakamura and Akio Tsuchino who are named as co-authors of the cited article but who declare they are not inventors of the above application. Ex parte Hirschler, 110 USPP 384. Therefore, the rejection is not proper.

In view of the above remarks, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures